

Oct. 22. Fully fledged bird. Plumage all black. Base of lower mandible dull crimson. Irides had narrow bright blue circle round pupils.

Oct. 25. Adult. Irides white. Much brown in the plumage, especially on the mantle. Bill all black.

Oct. 26. Adult. Irides white. Plumage all black.

Nov. 1. Adult. Irides hazel. Plumage brown and black. The under-plumage of all the Crows was white.

Many Crows were observed through binoculars at close ranges. Immature birds could be distinguished by the dull crimson of the base of the lower mandibles. All these seemed to have black plumage. Adults, with black beaks throughout, had mostly brown and black plumage.

White-eyed Crows were abundant on the Peron. Some of them were always about the station sheep-yards. They seemed to be in completely black plumage. Many nests of Crows were observed in small mangroves at the big lagoon, usually from only five to eight feet above ground.

XXXI.—*Some evidence corroborating the supposed Breeding of the Green Sandpiper in the British Isles.* By H. W. ROBINSON, M.B.O.U.

IN view of the fact that there is no authentic record of the Green Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*) nesting in Great Britain, I beg to record a pair which are believed to have nested in Levens Park, Westmorland, during the past summer, the details being as follows :—

On June 24, Waterhouse the gamekeeper, a first-class field-naturalist, observed in the Park a Wader which he could not name. He saw it there practically every day until about the third week in July, after which he thought that it had departed. It was very wild and never uttered a call of any sort. He described it to me as something like a Redshank, but very dark on the back, and with a large white patch on the rump like a House-Martin.

On August 5, whilst in company with Waterhouse, a fellow-member of the B. O. U., the Rev. E. U. Savage,

and others, it flew close past us, uttering the characteristic call of the species twice, and I was able to identify it as a Green Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*). Up to this time the pair had never been seen together, so I hardly expected them to be nesting there until, on the morning of August 11, I received a wire from the vicar of the parish, "Sandpiper has nested, young running." On the afternoon of August 10, Waterhouse saw both birds together for the first time, calling loudly whilst flying close round him in a great state of excitement, and, looking on the gravel-bed, he discovered, running about, two young almost fully fledged. On Sunday, August 12, they were so far advanced as to take jumps into the air in their first attempts at flight, and were still there on the 15th.

The River Kent, where it flows through Levens Park, is typical Green Sandpiper ground, the banks consisting of marshy hanging woods. Regarding the species, Saunders, in his 'Manual of British Birds,' states as follows:—"Not uncommon in the spring as well as the autumn migration in many parts of England and Wales." And also, "There is a possibility, though as yet no proof, that it may occasionally breed with us." In the new B. O. U. list (1915) it is given as "A Bird of Passage and a Winter Visitor. It is not uncommon in England and Wales and is occasionally observed throughout the summer, but has not been proved to breed." Quoting the same authority, "It breeds in northern Europe and Asia, from the Arctic Circle southwards to Germany, Poland, Central Russia, and the great mountain ranges of Central Asia." Saunders further gives its breeding-range as far west as Holstein.

The nesting-habits of the species are curious, showing a preference for trees and the use of old nests of Thrushes, Blackbirds, Jays, and Ring-Doves, or even of Squirrels' dreys.

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[Until eggs and parents are taken and identified, we feel that we must regard the breeding of the Green Sandpiper in Great Britain as unproven.—Ed.]